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Xerox Docket No. D/A0A96

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re the Application of

Robert C. U. YU et al.

Group Art Unit: 1733

Application No.: 09/683,326

Examiner: J. HARAN

Filed: December 14, 2001

Docket No.: 118093

For: FABRICATION METHOD FOR AN ELECTROSTATOGRAPHIC MEMBER
HAVING A VIRTUAL FLEXIBLE SEAMLESS SUBSTRATE

REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are directed to the new points of argument raised in the Examiner's Answer dated April 29, 2005.

A. Motivation to Combine References

In arguing that it would have been obvious to combine U.S. Patent No. 5,997,974 to Schlueter et al. (hereinafter "Schlueter '974") with U.S. Patent No. 5,688,355 to Yu (hereinafter "Yu"), the Examiner's Answer argues that there is ample and sufficient motivation to modify the process of Yu based on the teachings of Schlueter '974. In support of this position, the Examiner's Answer indicates that "the electrostatographic belts of Yu and Schlueter '974 essentially have the same layers in the same order"; "the advantages of applying the layers after seaming the support sheet includes having a 'seamless' electrostatographic belt with a smooth and seamless surface"; and "Schlueter '974 teaches that